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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 006887

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TAGS: [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KAWC](#) [PINR](#) [SU](#) [CD](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: FRENCH ILL AT EASE ON DARFUR, CHAD, AND THE AFRICAN UNION

REF: A. SECSTATE 182626 B. NDJAMENA 01487

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Josiah B. Rosenblatt. Reaso

ns 1.4b,d

11. (SBU) DAS-Equivalent Helene Le Gal and Sudan Desk Officer Jeremie Robert singled out recent violence in Darfur, cross-border attacks into Chad by militia with possible government backing, African Union representative Kingibe's strong criticism of Khartoum, and Chad's rebuke to Sudanese authorities as deeply troubling developments, during an October 4 meeting with Africa Watcher and visiting France Desk Officer Susan Ball. The Government of Chad had convoked the French ambassador October 3 -- Le Gal said he is now being called in almost daily by the MFA -- to express grave displeasure at Sudanese actions.

12. (SBU) Robert described Chad's shutting down the Sudanese consulate in Abeche and the withdrawal of Chad's own consulate in El Geneina was a hard and blunt message to Khartoum. Le Gal and Robert added they were not yet clear about what was happening, and volunteered no explanations. They asked what actions the USG was taking, specifically in Chad and with respect to the Darfur rebels. Robert called attention to the October 3 Quai d'Orsay public statement on condemning the attacks (See Embassy Translation in para 6.).

13. (C) Le Gal observed that the hand of the African Union (AU) was weakening in Darfur. While the AMIS mandate was potentially strong, it was "a piece of paper" that AMIS did not, could not or would not enforce. Moreover, finding financing for AMIS was a constant struggle, Le Gal said, in what is proving a frequent refrain from her office. Blue-hatting AMIS was definitely in the cards. In a minor illustration of French irritation, Le Gal said France had set aside 17,000 MREs for AMIS forces, but the AU had yet to pick up the goods for transport. (Note: The MREs are apparently in France.) Le Gal also noted a certain discomfort on the French side in working with AU Chairperson Konare; Commissioner Djinnit was a different story, however. Le Gal said Konare would visit France and meet with President Chirac on October 25. Konare also visits Brussels October 12-13 on what she termed "regular consultations."

14. (C) Le Gal and Robert expressed reservations about how effective a role Libya could play in fostering rebel cohesion, and about Tripoli's reliability. Nonetheless, Robert did view the recent SLM-JEM accord brokered by Libya and Chad as a breakthrough. Both Le Gal and Robert remarked with interest that Deby met twice with Qadhafi last month, first on September 9 and then again in the last week of September, when transiting Libya after medical treatment in Paris.

15. (C) Comment and bio note: Le Gal views the challenge of Darfur financing through an EU prism, in part reflecting her recent assignment in Brussels. She has previously served in Tel Aviv, Madrid and Burkina Faso, and as a desk officer for East Africa. She speaks English.

16. (U) Begin Text (Embassy translation) of October 3 public statement on Darfur:

"France condemns the recent escalation of violence in Darfur, including militia attacks on villages, the September 28 attack against the Aro Sharow IDP camp, and rebel movements against government positions.

"France equally condemns the attacks in the vicinity of Modaina, Chad, on September 25, by armed groups entering from Sudan that caused 75 deaths.

"France is moreover very concerned at impediments to humanitarian operations in Darfur.

"France calls on all parties, the Sudanese government and rebel movements (SLM, JEM) to respect the ceasefire and to negotiate in good faith at the Abuja talks.

"France reminds all parties that individuals who violate the ceasefire, human rights and international humanitarian law constitute a threat to the stability of Darfur and represent an obstacle to the Peace Process in Darfur; as such, they are liable to sanctions by the Security Council under Resolution

¶1591.

"France reiterates its support for the actions of the African Union Mission in Darfur (AMIS). France welcomes the convening today of an emergency meeting of the African Union Council for Peace and Security on the situation in Darfur."

End Text.

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